"Out Standing In Our Field"
Ken Barry
Broker
705-754-5280
ken@kenbarry.com
Jacquie Barry
Realtor®
705-457-0652
jacquie@kenbarry.com
www.kenbarry.com
RE/MAX PROFESSIONALS NORTH

County Life

Celebrating arts and culture in the Haliburton Highlands

JANUARY 8, 2026

HALIBURTON
TIMBER MART
Helping you build better since 1968.
THE DESIGN EXPERTS
FREE DELIVERY
5148 County Rd. Haliburton
705-457-2510
haliburtonlumber.com

CENTURY 21
Granite Realty Group Inc.

Personal Service ... Professional Results!
Karen Nimigon 705-457-6505
karen@karennimigon.com
Award-Winning Realtor
BROKER SRS SRES ABR
CENTURION® HONOUR SOCIETY

Seeing Snowden
Explore Minden's forest on page 4

Island life
A history of the heart of the home on page 6

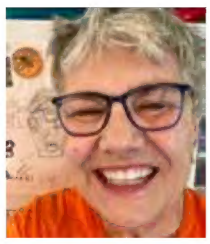
Start again
A short story on page 7

Cute baby deer by Tammy Nash

Queen Adjustable Base
Power foundation with wireless remote & memory program. Features: adjustable height legs, wireless remote & zero clearance. Also available with massage for $899 in Queen size. Multiple sizes available.
$799

BRADLEY: Respectful

HEY. I'M Brad. I'm in Grade 6. They call me *Sasquatch*. I like food, and my size gives me superpowers. I've been protecting younger kids for over a year now. I was also getting tired of being teased. My last teacher gave me advice. *Help others. Too* bad Mr. Rodrigo left. I would have had him this year too. But he wanted to be a principal, and now he is one, so he transferred to a bigger school.



DEB REED
Wind in the Attic

I'm not sure yet if Miss Fields likes me. It'll take a while for me to relax. I'll find it hard to write these monthly *editorials* and then hand them in. I've always done *first-person* writing, but I never say much that's really private. Like who I'm crushing on, or if I'm upset.

I sit beside a quiet guy called Arlo. He hardly notices me. He's always jotting down something or other into a bargain store Blue Jays notebook he keeps in his desk. I have that same notebook, but instead I draw giant comics with jokes and stuff. Like, *what did the piggy say to the moose? Why the lo-o-o-ong face?* Kills me every time!

I'll probably write about certain kids I know. Miss Fields wants us to reflect respectfully. I know what that means, but I still worry that I'll accidentally hurt somebody's feelings. Then I remember that only she will read what I hand in. If I mention anyone, I'll be really careful.

When I first walked into this classroom, I said *pleasure to meet ya*, Theresa! and I stuck out my hand at the new teacher. Dad had found her full name on some Facebook page which welcomes people to this community. She did shake my hand, but she said it might be more respectful to call me Miss Fields. I definitely will from now on.

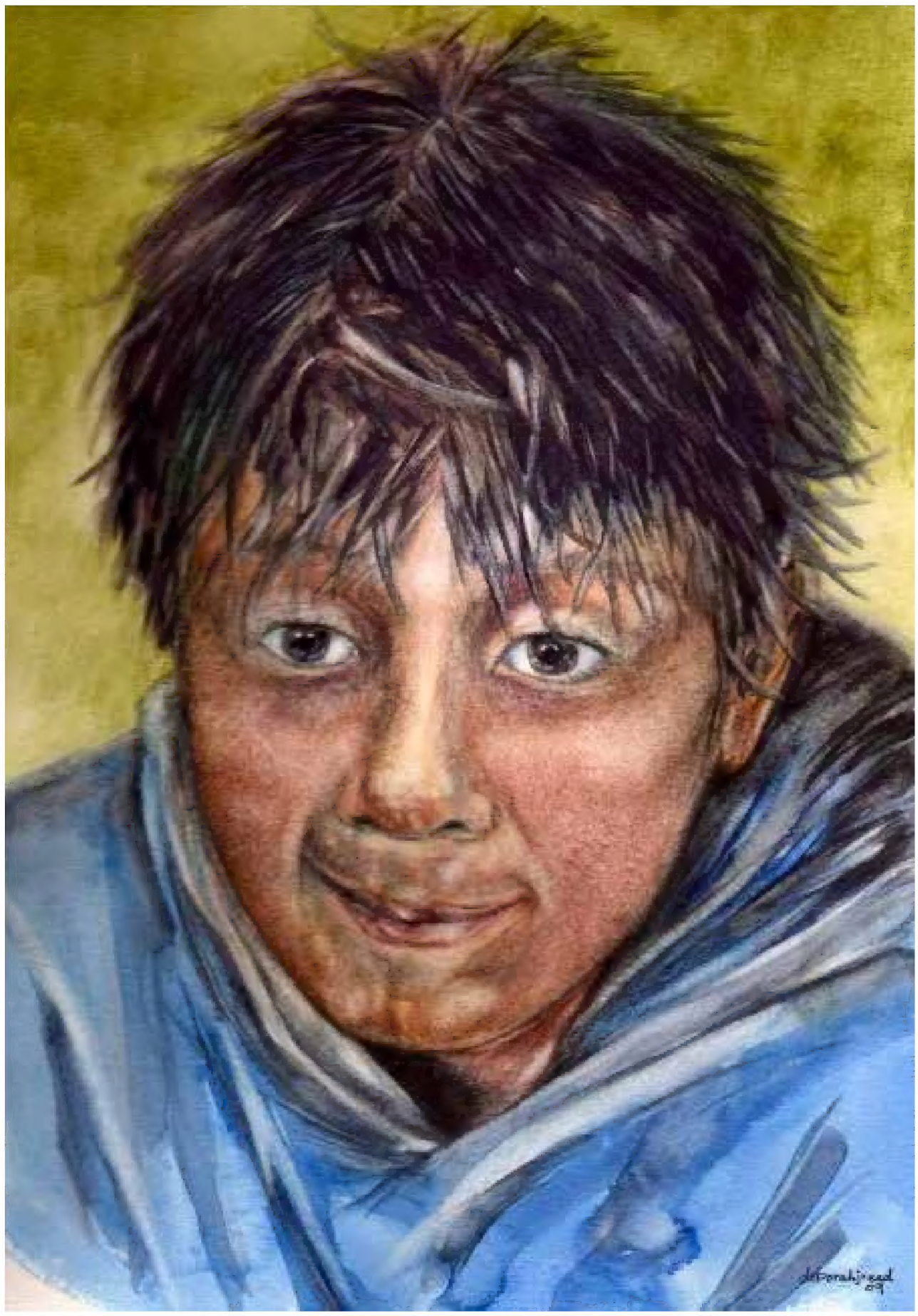
I'm a good guy. I'm nice to everybody. I knew Arlo before, but hardly ever spoke to him. Other kids tease him for always writing, but today I ask what he's putting into his notebook. He smiles and holds it up:

Respecting yourself brings respect.

That was sitting on the whiteboard the first day of class. Every letter was a different colour of marker. I smile at Arlo, and show him my identical notebook.

He doesn't seem to need my schoolyard protection any more. He has a couple of friends he now walks around with. My job is to defend everyone younger than me. Nobody asked me to do this. I just hate jerks. Every teacher shows us books or movies about types of bullying. Even blue jays are bully-birds. Mr. Rodrigo told me to laugh whenever I get called names. Make eye contact. Last year he noticed me crying in the schoolyard. He said *remember your powers!* and soon I felt much better. So I mostly smile now, or I walk away.

I whisper my moose joke to Arlo, and he laughs out loud. Then I draw a *Sasquatch.*



RIVERVIEW
FURNITURE & FLOORING

Hours
Mon. to Sat.
9 am - 5pm
Sun.
10am - 3pm

"This Week's Special"

New Year – New Mattress
Start your New Year off right with a good nights sleep! We have a large selection of Canadian Made Mattresses that are sure to accommodate any sleep style and budget!

FLOORING
Think Riverview
VISIT OUR 1000 SQ FT SHOWROOM
dedicated to all types of flooring and carpet available by 10 different suppliers which gives you an amazing selection to choose from all at great pricing!
Be Sure To Follow Us Online!

705-286-3167 • 94 Bobcaygeon Rd • DOWNTOWN MINDEN
info@riverview-furniture.com • www.riverview-furniture.com

CountyLife

The following inserts are being distributed with County Life this week:

Haliburton Timber Mart *

Minden Valumart *

Shoppers Drug Mart Haliburton *

Todd's Independent *

All inserts are to selected distribution areas.

For information on how your flyer can be inserted each week in County Life please contact Melissa Armstrong at **613-332-2002** or **melissa@haliburtonpress.com**

Ice holes explained

WHEN PEOPLE speak of ice fishing, they often discuss gear, tactics and where to fish ad nauseum, but very few people talk about the most important part of the activity. The hole.

STEVE GALEA
Beyond 35

I'm not sure why this is the case. For it has been my experience that, without the hole, ice fishing success is drastically reduced.

Despite this, there are few articles devoted to the art and science of creating a hole in the ice.

Sure, we all know that the worst way to do it is with your boot. In fact, if you have punched through the ice with your boot, get off the ice. Now! The ice is too thin.

Ice fishing holes, like everything else, have evolved over the centuries.

When ice fishing was first invented, ancient man used to drill holes in the ice by sending the heaviest angler out first. This work for the most part, but was hell on large identical twins.

Thankfully, soon after that, the spud was invented.

The spud is essentially a chisel attached to a heavy metal bar. No one knows why it was named after a potato. I am guessing that the fellow who invented it really liked potatoes. But that, of course, is purely speculation.

The point is the spud worked well for years. And still does.

There are only two down sides to using the spud. First, you need to watch your toes, which is probably one of the main reasons why no one wears open-toed sandals when ice fishing. The other down side is when you ask a person to pass the spud, you run the risk of having a potato thrown violently at you.

The upside of a spud, however, is that it allows you to create square holes, which the marketing people said allowed you to corner a fish.

Luckily, the manual ice auger was invented soon after. Again, this is purely speculation, but I have always suspected it was invented by retired pirates with rough peg legs who took up ice fishing. If you think about it, this makes perfect sense because you can't put a square peg in a round hole.

Again, I could be wrong.

The manual ice auger was all the rage for many years because a) it was more efficient to use and b) back in the old days when it was still a novelty, drilling a hole in the ice was probably the most fun a person could have in January. Which gives you some indication how bleak winters were back then.

The round hole was also one of the greatest technological achievements of that time. But only because technology was really moving at a snail's pace back then. (Never forget. Our ancestors used the pointed stick for centuries.)

Ancient ice anglers found that the round hole was a fine passage for slipping fish up through the ice. On the flip side, it was also appreciated by fish that slipped out of their hands. Even so, ice anglers chose to settle on the round hole because it was harder, though not impossible, to place a boot through.

Since then the only real innovation regarding holes has been the size of them and how quickly we make them. Gas- and electric-powered augers have allowed us to drill bigger holes faster.

I suspect one day soon, we will have flamethrowing ice augers, which might mean the end of ice fishing entirely.

Until then, avoid asking anyone to pass the spud.

ServiceOntario
Life is easier with official identification
Signing up for renewal reminders keeps you notified when IDs, like your Ontario Photo Card or driver's licence, are about to expire.
Learn more at ontario.ca/reminders
Paid for by the Government of Ontario
Ontario

Naturally Yours

Snowden Park

IT WAS cold. Really cold. However, I kept smiling while floundering with snowshoes on in water up to my waist. I was guiding people through Snowden Park and even with years of assisting ice safety courses for my college students, I got overly excited about checking out wolf tracks around an active beaver lodge. My training should have warned me that ice around these lodges is always weak.

RICK WHITTEKER
Naturally Yours

Sticking to the beaten track this time, snowshoeing at Snowden Park is unique as the trail is… well, flat, a novel experience for Haliburton County. Located just south of South Lake Road on County Road 1, this hidden gem is managed by the Township of Minden Hills. A 450-acre wetland and forest preserve, Snowden Park's trail system is surrounded by wetlands but also has an upland forest environment that is high and dry. A trail for all seasons, I have seen fisher, American bittern, beaver and snowshoe hare here as well as a range of wildlife tracks in the winter.

/photos by Rick Whitteker

The park has two main loop trails, the Brenda Chambers trail (1.86 km) and the Ross Rigney trail (3.64 km). There are two viewing areas on the Brenda Chambers trail which allow you to look out over a marsh and a fen. The first lookout is a platform close to the trailhead where you get an elevated view of a marsh, presently frozen, wind-blown and held in place by a robust, vegetated beaver dam. The more modest fen lookout further along the Brenda Chambers trail gives you an expansive view over a fen landscape.

As this trail heads away from the fen, it transitions into a drier forest environment and eventually leads to the Homestead Trail- a short trail section leading to the Ross Rigney loop. I popped into this trail to look at an old white pine which tells a story of both human and natural history. With a girth of almost four meters, this pine has branches that start near the base of the tree, suggesting it has been exposed to plenty of sunlight in the past. Commonly called a field pine, this tree likely had little competition for sunlight as the area around it was cleared for homesteading early in its life.

A pileated woodpecker is now a regular visitor to this tree, the deep, oblong excavations seen on a lower branch can only be done by Ontario's largest woodpecker. New excavations have recently

see page 5

Are you a full-service media agency having demonstrated exceptional media strategy, negotiation and execution capabilities across all media types and platforms?

Supply Ontario is seeking applications from highly qualified, experienced media agencies to become preferred vendors for the **Media Planning & Buying Services** Vendor of Record arrangement.

Only Preferred Vendors will be invited to compete for media planning and buying services projects as they become available.

To apply, go to www.ontario.ca/tenders, select Current or Published Opportunities, enter Project Info filter, click Go, enter Tender#, click Search.

Tender# 21261 for Media Planning and Buying Vendor of Record 2024

Cette information est disponible en français.

Supply Ontario

ADVERTISE With us

Call 705-457-1037
or
705-286-1288

Weekly ad deadline: Thursday 4 p.m.

Classifieds - Three papers, One Low Price!

$15 *plus tax*
For up to 25 words.

Your classified word ad will appear in all three papers

The Echo Haliburton County · The Times Minden Ontario · County Life

Naturally Yours

from page 4

been bored farther up the branch with the pileated likely looking for fresh chambers of carpenter ants, a common food source for this large woodpecker.

The Ross Rigney Trail is a longer optional loop with lots of variety. Surrounded by wetlands, keep an eye out for moose antler rubs on samplings along this trail. Decidedly less natural, a 1971 Lincoln Continental rests rusting away about 500 metres from the start of this loop travelling counterclockwise. Make up your own story as I have yet to hear a plausible one on how it got there!

Deciding on the shorter Brenda Chambers Loop, it is hard to miss dark, bulging clumps on tree trunks, an eye-catching phenomenon on this section of trail. Black cherry trees are easy to identify as their bark is very dark and flaky resembling burnt corn flakes. Most of the black cherry trees here have rough, dark, and swollen bark protrusions. Called galls, these growths are caused by a pathogenic fungus called black knot.

Galls form when the spores of black knot fungus establish themselves on the trunks and branches of cherry trees. As the fungus grows, it releases chemicals that stimulate the tree to grow extra large cells around the fungus. On sapling branches, these galls are whimsically called "witches' finger" as they appear like knobby-knuckled, finger-like black growths. Like tumours but benign, gall formations are well tolerated by cherry trees with little effect on their health. However, if the gall surrounds the trunk, it can restrict the flow of nutrients from the roots.

Not all galls form due to fungal intrusions. Some trees respond similarly to bacteria, viruses, insects, and environmental damage. On cherry, maple, elm and other trees, these galls are made up of a random pattern of plant cells responding to a stressor. Burls are like galls but are bark covered with dense, swirling and contorted cell patterns making them popular with wood carvers.

Snowden Park offers a flat, snowshoeing experience with outhouses and excellent trail maps at every intersection which always seem to know where you are! With several route options to choose from, this is a tranquil trek destination with no motorized use allowed. A trail system for all seasons and surrounded by wetlands, I was happy to stay dry this time!

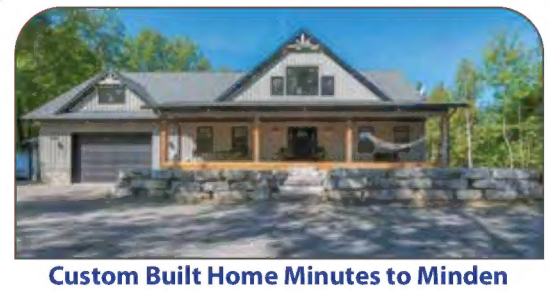
The Ultimate in Professional and Personalized Service

Terry Carr
Sales Representative
705.935.1011
Terry@MovingTheHighlands.com
MovingTheHighlands.com

Moving the Highlands
RE/MAX PROFESSIONALS NORTH
Brokerage - Independently owned + operated
Box 1010, 12621 Hwy 35
Minden, ON K0M 2K0

Lisa Mercer Broker
Cell 705-457-0364
www.lisamercer.ca
RE/MAX PROFESSIONALS NORTH

Don't keep me a secret!



Custom Built Home Minutes to Minden
- Spacious Main Floor Living with Primary Suite
- Two spacious Bedrooms and a Family Room above the Garage
- Oversized Double Garage with Infloor Heating
- Quiet Corner Lot with Bush Backyard

Lynda Litwin
Sales Representative
Cell 705-457-8511
www.lyndalitwin.ca
RE/MAX PROFESSIONALS NORTH

RE/MAX PROFESSIONALS NORTH

12621 Highway 35, Minden
beside Subway Restaurant

follow us!

*Not intended to solicit properties or clients currently listed

Editor's Thoughts

Jennifer McEathron, General Manager, Sales
Emily Stonehouse Managing Editor
Steve Galea, Contributor
Laura Smith, Paul Banelopoulos Ad Sales
Classifieds, Inside sales
Karen London, Production Co-ordinator
Stacey Potalivo, Production

146 Highland St., Box 360, Haliburton, Ontario K0M 1S0
Phone: 705 457-1037

Website: www.haliburtonecho.ca
Box 97, Minden K0M 2K0
Phone: 705 286-1288
Website: www.mindentimes.ca

Send your letters to the editor to emily@haliburtonpress.com. Letters must be signed and include a phone number.

County Life is produced by The Haliburton County Echo and Minden Times, and published by White Pine Media Corp. Audited circulation: 6,372 July 1 - Dec 31, 2015

News Media Canada
Médias d'Info Canada

Islands

WHEN WE hear the word "island", our mind naturally wanders to something solitary. A lone wolf, a solo space. Islands in the sea are their own spaces - surrounded entirely by salty waves and separate from large land masses.

EMILY STONEHOUSE
County Life Editor

Which is why I find it interesting that the kitchen counter plunked in the centre of the home is called an island. Sure, it's a space unto itself, separated from the other land-loving countertops. But the reality of this destination is that it's the least lonely spot in the house.

Islands started to gain popularity in the mid 1960s, when none other than famed TV chef Julia Child appeared on her cooking show, performing feats of culinary magic at her kitchen island.

The concept around featuring the island as opposed to the standard of cooking in a basic kitchen was to open up the space to viewers. It was seen as welcoming, warm, and approachable.

By the 1970s, many would recall "breakfast bars" popping up in dining rooms, gradually easing away from the formality of mealtimes, and incorporating kids into the kitchen. This also coincided with a time in history where the gender roles began to melt away; the kitchen was not solely seen as "a woman's domain", rather, it became a hub for the whole family, as tasks around cooking and cleaning were delegated more evenly amongst a household.

By the 1990s, kitchen islands were a staple in the home, with the addition of an island drastically boosting the value of a home. The space was carved out for homework, for snacks, for sitting and chatting during cocktail parties.

These days, modern homebuilders have begun to accessorize the classic island, adding dishwashers or sinks right into the space, breaking down the barriers of parent and kid, cook and cleaner.

When friends of mine are navigating the journey of building a home, I will always recommend a kitchen island. And not for space or structure, but for the opportunities it creates with your kids.

Our kitchen island is the heart of our home. On any given day, there are homework sheets, nibbled pencils, granola bar wrappers, and half-drained water bottled scattered across its surface. It's been a place where art projects are glued back together, where meals are hurriedly gobbled down before dance classes, where tea is trialled and coffee is consumed.

And for some reason - like on many islands, perhaps - the same rules do not apply when we sit at the island. The walls are down, the conversation is up. As I sit and busy myself in the kitchen, scrambling eggs and frothing milk, I listen to my kids talk.

About their days, about their friends, about the teachers they get along with, about the people they clash with. I listen to them ask questions to one another, as they dip their spoons in for another scoop of Cheerios, about their lives, about their goals, about their dreams. They swap stories with one another, and they welcome my feedback and insight as we sit around that island.

It's not something that happens on its own. If I were to face them in a restaurant, in the living room, or one-on-one, I don't think it would be the same.

Because islands are different. They're a space for gathering, for sharing. A space for exchanging jokes and leaving lipstick-stained wine glasses by the sink. It's organic, it's real, and it's invaluable.

There's something magical to islands, and knowing, somehow, that we're never alone.

Top 10 signs that winter has affected your mental health

WINTER IS perhaps the hardest time for some of us emotionally – and I'm not just talking about hockey parents. Things like seasonal affective disorder and snow shoveling can take a toll on even the most stable of us. Yet, if we feel that our mental health is slipping, we can take the appropriate actions – such as hibernation.

STEVE GALEA
Humour Columnist

With that in mind, here are the top 10 signs that winter is degrading your mental health.

1. You start a driveway shoveling club.
2. Your army of snowmen is poised for world domination.
3. You find yourself repeating, "We're blessed to live in a part of the world where it snows this much."
4. You keep thinking, "Winter is going by too fast."
5. You frequently wonder what your snowblower is doing.
6. You do your best to combine ice fishing with cross-country skiing.
7. You don't take off your snowshoes when you go inside.
8. You think that the icicles hanging from each nostril make you look "rugged."
9. You believe eggnog and shortbread cookies are a food group.
10. Local first responders know you as "Metal pole licking guy."

Crossing

River silt nestling my toes like stones, my limbs, loosening,
a lightness flowing through my bones, as my body slips into the cold current,
feeling the water envelop my flesh,
breast stroking and whip-kicking like a frog across the River, ripples of breeze, crinkling its skin,
I see a duck and duckling passing me as I swim, how serene, the pair appear, floating along the River,
the duckling following its Mum, while their webbed feet scrabble beneath the surface,
the ducks leaving a silver trail behind, as they glide towards the other side, where a jumble of rocks tumbles down the bank,
spilling into the River from the water's edge, forming a ledge that I swim towards,
my lungs breathing deeper, feeling stronger, than they do on land,
my hands paddling through the water, carrying the vessel of my body to the other side,
my legs feeling weightless as a fish as they swish through the water,
I sink beneath the surface for a few strokes, squeezing my eyes shut, a whirlpool of warmth swirling around me,
as I pause, in that spot, treading water, blinking up at the feather and fishbone clouds smearing Sky,
and all the pines fringing the River, mingling with birches, the white bones of their trunks poking through the green,
their branches hanging over the River, in the spot where the rocks form a ledge,
where the pair of ducks rest in a pool of water, how much faster they are than me,
even the duckling, that had to scrabble twice as hard, with its small feet, to keep up with its Mum,
I cup my face up toward afternoon Sun, fingers of warmth grazing my cheeks,
my own feet, scrabbling, to keep treading water,
drifting, as the current carries me,
wondering how deep the River is in its middle, how far my feet are from sinking into silt,
I begin swimming again after my rest, breast stroking and whip-kicking harder, to reach the other side,
the birches and pines inspiring me to keep going, stroke by stroke, Breath by Breath,
the pair of ducks sliding off the ledge of rocks, back into the River, letting the current carry them,
as their feet scrabble beneath the surface, but above water, their feathers remain unruffled and calm,
the coolness of water and breeze, a balm for my body and mind, not a single worry scurrying through my head,
only this mission to reach the other side, the rocks, growing larger, the pines, stretching taller,
as I near the other bank,
landing with my hands on the jumble of jagged rocks, feeling exhausted and Alive, at the same time,
my hands feeling their way towards the ledge where the ducks lounged,
a white feather floating in the warm pool of water, where I crumple my limbs to rest,
grasping the feather before it drifts into the River,
breathing slow, breathing deep as the River flows,
peering out at the specks of ducks, floating across the River, leaving a silver trail behind,
losing track of time as I lean my spine against the back of a rock,
lulled by the warmth of the water, and breeze weaving through the birches and pines,
my body, forgetting, for the moment, that soon it will have to plunge in again, and swim back across to the other side.

Sylvie Kalenda

A new beginning - a short story

GAIL STELTER

County Life Contributor

Winter feelings matched the dark. They tilted Kelly's world away from light and took her instead to mournful thoughts of the long months ahead. Anxiety was knocking at her snow-covered door. She was being tested. Could she shovel it away?

Then relief. Volunteers from Fuel for Warmth arrived with a load of firewood. Kelly's heart and house warmed with gratitude for her hometown community. The wood stove inside her one-level frame house worked endlessly. It evoked cozy feelings and memories of those long-ago winters, when it was different, when he was here with her and their babies. She stared at the flames, so perfect and so powerful. They would force the gift of heat to the rooftop and the surrounding forests and hills. Kelly imagined them telling the thin layer of frozen snow on the roof to melt. She prayed for no roof cave-ins this winter.

Day was done, and her sweet babies, four-year-old twins, Michael and Maggie, were finally warm and sleeping peacefully. Time for bed. The warmth of the fire struggled to reach Kelly in the back bedroom. She pulled the blankets up to her neck, and as she drifted back to another time.

Why had Evan gone? What happened to their hopes and dreams?

"Kelly, I love you and the babies, but I can't cope with it all. I am dying here in the wilderness. I need the city. I need to leave. I am so sorry."

"You don't leave your wife and children if you love them. You are a selfish coward. You are breaking my heart ... I love you. Get out."

"Sorry. I have to go. I will try to send you some money."

That was it. He closed the door behind him and left. The twins were a year old. For the longest time, she thought he would come back. He didn't. He didn't send money. Kelly had to figure it all out on her own. She went to see her banker about a loan. She was shocked to find out Evan had withdrawn all their savings, and she heard a rumour: he had another woman.

The trials of being a single mom were muted against the love and joy of her children, the knowledge that her parents' love and support were forever and the caring and comfort of a few cherished friends. Kelly got a job at a local restaurant, and her parents stepped in to take care of the twins while she worked. It wasn't easy, but Kelly was determined. Her love for Evan died a speedy death as she fought for survival. Now, three years later, Kelly was satisfied with her life. And yet, soul searching revealed a yearning for something more. As she fell asleep, she whispered her hope that the new year would bring more. She did not want to admit what "more" would be, but she did know it would be her new beginning.

Morning sunshine burst through her bedroom window, and her wandering mind switched to the promise of a good day ahead. She gazed out of her window and smiled. The hills bore a white blanket, glistening in the sunshine. The pine and spruce trees hosted puffy pillows, disguising the green branches below.

"Look, Maggie. Look, Mikey. It snowed last night. After breakfast, we will get our snowsuits on and go outside to play. We can build Frosty at the Snowman!"

The twins ran to the window. Mikey shouted, "We need a carrot. Mommy, do we have any carrots?"

We need buttons", added Maggie.

"Okey, dokey", said Kelly. I will get the things we need. Eat up and get ready to sing Frosty the

Snowman. I'll call grandpa and grandma and see if they can come and help. Maybe grandma has a carrot."

Soon they were all singing and laughing. Grandma brought carrots, and somehow, Grandpa found eyes made out of coal. After a happy time, they were starting to get cold, and Kelly decided to head inside to put another log on the fire, ready for hot chocolate and the few Christmas cookies still in the tin.

She heard the approaching truck and turned around. A truck full of firewood pulled into her driveway.

"Hi Kelly, hello Mr. and Mrs. Tierney. Kelly, I brought you another load of wood. Where do you want me to unload it?"

"Hi Mark, I got some yesterday. I think you have the wrong name on your delivery list."

Mark and Kelly had been friends for years. They "hung out together" in their senior year of high school. Since Evan left, Mark was often discovered watching over her and the twins and had become her closest go-to. The twins loved him, and Kelly appreciated him. He made her smile, and his love for her kids earned him a special place in her life.

"No, this is not from the Fuel for Warmth volunteers. This wood is from my farm. I want you to have it. Extra firewood is always good, especially when that is the only way you heat your house."

"Oh, Mark, thank you, that's wonderful, and it's great to know we will have enough to last through the cold winter months."

"Mark," said Mrs. Tierney, "do you have time to come inside for hot chocolate?"

"Mommy, can Mark please come?" asked Mikey.

"Mark, will you play dollhouse with me?" asked Maggie. "Santa gave me a dollhouse."

"Hot chocolate and a dollhouse. Wow! I'm coming, and I bought my train set too."

Kelly laughed. Mark was just a big kid, a hard-working, responsible farm kid.

Kelly pretended to look worried and said, "Sure, Mark can come inside, but we may have a problem. I don't know if we have enough Christmas cookies for us all."

"He can have mine", said Mikey.

"No, I want him to have mine," said Maggie.

Grandma chirped in. "I baked some more for you all."

Mikey, Maggie and Mark cheered. Kelly chuckled. She stopped. Did she just feel her heart jump? Was this moment beyond belief? Was it love? Maybe, just maybe, this was her "more," her new beginning.

We Do House Calls & Consultations Are Always Free!

Steve Kerr
DENTURE CLINIC

- Complete Dentures
- Partial Dentures
- Same Day Repairs & Relines
- House Calls

143 Bobcaygeon Rd., Minden, ON
stevekerr.denturist@gmail.com
stevekerrdentureclinic.com

CALL NOW TO BOOK A *FREE* CONSULTATION! 705.286.4888

Haliburton Highlands Seniors Active Living Centre

Check out this month's SALC events and activities for residents aged 55+

Board game drop-in
various dates in January
Seniors Stretch Class
January 6, 20 and 27
Exercise classes with Georgia
January 6, 20 and 27
Seniors Cooking Workshop
January 6 and 20
Functional Senior Fitness
January 8 and 22
Needle felting - winter landscapes
January 8, 15, 21, 30
Senior Balance Fitness Class
January 9, 16, 23 and 30
Genealogy for Seniors
January 9, 10, 21, 23
Fitness Success Workshop
January 12 and 17
Information Sessions
January 13, January 27
Senior Chair Fit Group
January 14, 28
Seniors Exercise Program
January 14, 28
Painting Class
January 15, 29
Chair Yoga
January 15, 29
Falls Prevention Program
January 15, 20, 22, 27, 29
Museum Artifacts & Winter Landscapes webinar
January 19
Crafternoon
January 21
Savouring Stories
January 22

For full details, visit HaliburtonCounty.ca/SALC or pick up a calendar at a municipal office, library or Legion near you!

Haliburton County Seniors Active Living Centre (SALC)
Through this program, older adults (55+) and seniors (65+) are invited to get active, make friends, and be well!

The SALC Program is designed to provide social, cultural, learning, and recreational opportunities for seniors to stay fit, healthy and socially connected in their communities.

SALC Programming is available in Haliburton County beginning in July 2025, through collaboration between the County of Haliburton and local municipalities, the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility, and multiple partners.

Funding for this program has been provided by the Ministry for Seniors and Accessibility.

Ontario

RE/MAX PROFESSIONALS NORTH
Brokerage, Independently Owned and Operated

Not intended to solicit properties or clients currently listed

613 MOUNTAIN ST $395,000

Immaculate & Cozy 3 bedroom home in the Village of Haliburton. Main Fl Bedroom with 4 pc Bath, 2 upper level bedrooms with ensuite Bath. Spacious Kitchen/Dining Area with Walkout. Full Basement. Walk to town for all amenities.

John & Marj Parish
John Parish 705-457-5485
Marj Parish 705-455-2211
Sales Representatives

319 BOUNDARY RD, MINDEN $220,000

Opportunity Knocks!
- 1.04 Acre Lot
- Uninsulated 32' x24' Shell with block foundation, doors, windows and roof installed
- 5 minutes to Rail Trail, Burnt River and Lake Access
- Ready for you to take it across the Finish Line

Cheryl Smith
Sales Representative
705-455-2500
info@cherylsmithremax
cherylsmithremax.com

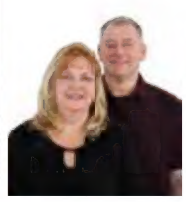
10 MINUTES FROM HALIBURTON $519,000

1 1/2 storey private home with 2+1 bedrooms and just over 1500 sq. ft. of living space - galley style kitchen with plenty of storage space - freshly renovated living area with new pot lighting - w/o to font and side deck - main floor laundry with a 2pc. bath - 3 pc bath on 2nd floor - new plank flooring on second floor - w/o partially finished lower level - FA propane heat - 1.58 acres of privacy

Ted Vasey
Sales Representative
705-455-2034
ted@tedvasey.ca

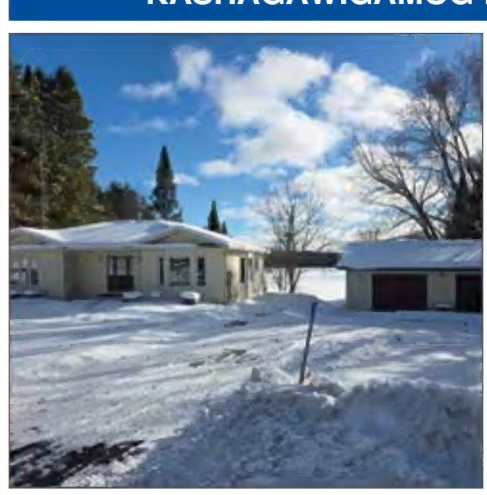
133 ACRES OF RAW CANADIAN WILDERNESS $399,000

* Stunning Views and Trails Throughout
* 5 Rustic Off-Grid Cabins
* 3300' of Year-Round Road Frontage
* Nearby Access to Snowmobile Trails System
* Perfectly Poised For Those With A Passion For The Great Outdoors

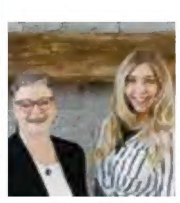


Ken Barry
Broker 705-754-5280
Jacquie Barry
Realtor® 705-457-0652
www. kenbarry.com
Out Standing In Our Field

KASHAGAWIGAMOG LAKE - $1,070,000



Meticulously maintained yr-round home on the popular 5-lake chain. 2+1 beds, 3 baths plus a finished basement with a kitchenette and a walkout to the waterfront. Enjoy lake views from the deck or the gazebo, or relax on the dock. Beautiful estate-like property with an expansive backyard leading to the water, plus a paved driveway & a spacious detached 2-car garage. Make this your home!



Terry Carr & Drew Staniforth
Sales Representatives
705-935-1011
MovingTheHighlands.com

Wishing you a New Year full of peace and love
2026
HAPPY NEW YEAR
Rick Forget Broker 705-457-0580 • haliburtonhighlands-remax.ca

HALIBURTON
191 Highland St., Suite 201
705-457-1011

MINDEN
12621 Highway 35, Unit 1
705-286-2911

WILBERFORCE
2260 Loop Road
705-448-2222

www.professionalsnorth.com
listings@remaxprofessionals.ca

26 REID ST., KINMOUNT $648,000

Welcome to a very private, spa-like setting with many recent updates and MAIN FLOOR LIVING.
The perfect full time home or cottage.
- Newly renovated home
- Open Concept and Main Floor Living
- 3 bedrooms * 2 bathrooms
- Updated kitchen
- Living Room and Family Room
- Above-Ground Pool and Hot Tub
- Beautiful private lot

Jackie Hardman
Sales Representative
705-879-8041
jackiedhardman@gmail.com

SOLD SOLD SOLD SOLD SOLD

4 season getaway/vacation home that you can renovate & make your own? Charming 1970's home & property appeal for outdoor hobbyists, gardeners & naturalists with 6.77 acres. Close to snowmobile trails & lakes. Main level incl. kit, eating area, LR, primary bedroom, bath & downstairs include laundry, bathroom ,bedroom, storage, workshop & utility room. Room for 2 main floor BRs if desired. Yr. round Rd.

Deb Lambe
Sales Representative
705-854-0103
debra.lambe@gmail.com

CUSTOM BUILT HOME MINUTES TO MINDEN

- Spacious Main Floor Living with Primary Suite
- Two spacious Bedrooms and a Family Room above the Garage
- Oversized Double Garage with Infloor Heating
- Quiet Corner Lot with Bush Backyard

Lynda Litwin
Sales Representative
705-457-8511
lynda@lyndalitwin.ca

1211 GELERT ROAD $1,200,000

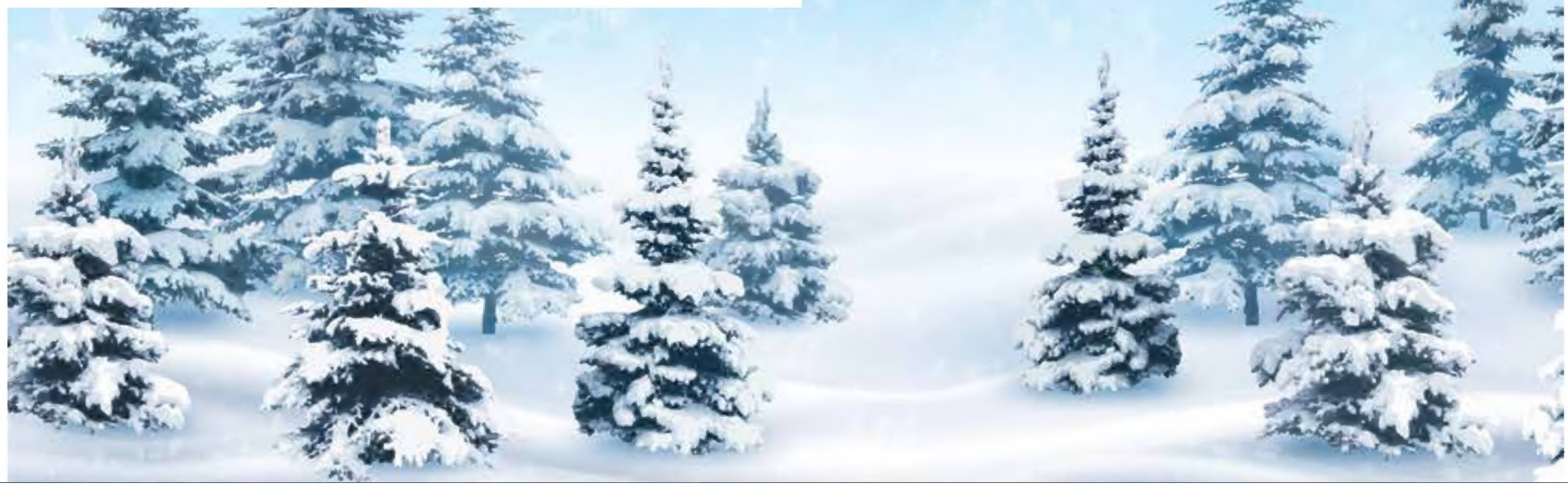
- 2 bedroom, 2 bathroom, 2019 Royal Home. Large deck surrounding home
- 49.9 Acres with trails
- Home is a dual heat system. Can use either forced air propane furnace or forced air wood boiler.
- 55'x24' shop or office with in-floor heating, steps from the house.
- More outbuildings and storage on the property, Heated greenhouse
- Minutes from Minden and Kinmount

Kelly Mercer
Broker
705-455-7500
kelly@kelly-mercer.ca

1110 SEDGWICK ROAD $930,000

100 acres of countryside. Separate building w/ public health approved commercial kitchen w/ high quality, commercial grade appliances. Ideal for launching/expanding a culinary business. Updated 2 bedroom home w/ loft. This home has been well cared for & thoughtfully upgraded. Property surrounded by 100 acres of Crown land. An abundance of wildlife at your doorstep as well as snowmobile and ATV trails.

Lisa Mercer
Broker
705-457-0364
www.lisamercer.ca
lisa@lisamercer.ca



Nature in your backyard

County Life welcomes photo submissions depicting life in the Highlands. Email emily@ haliburtonpress.com. Please ensure images are high resolution - 200 dpi, 10 inches at its longest edge.

A moose visitor by Tammy Nash

Fisher says hello by Tammy Nash

Black capped chickadee by Jill Moulton

Rose breasted nuthatch by Jill Moulton

HALIBURTON COUNTY HUSKIES

Home Game

NORTHUMBERLAND TIGERS JUNIOR 'B' HOCKEY CLUB VS HALIBURTON COUNTY HUSKIES

Saturday, Jan. 17 - 6 p.m.

Upcoming Home Games

TRENTON GOLDEN HAWKS

Saturday, Jan. 24
4 p.m.

Saturday, Jan. 31
4 p.m.

S.G. Nesbitt Memorial Arena

For more information please visit our website

WWW.HUSKIESHOCKEY.CA

Production Services
Become a Preferred Vendor

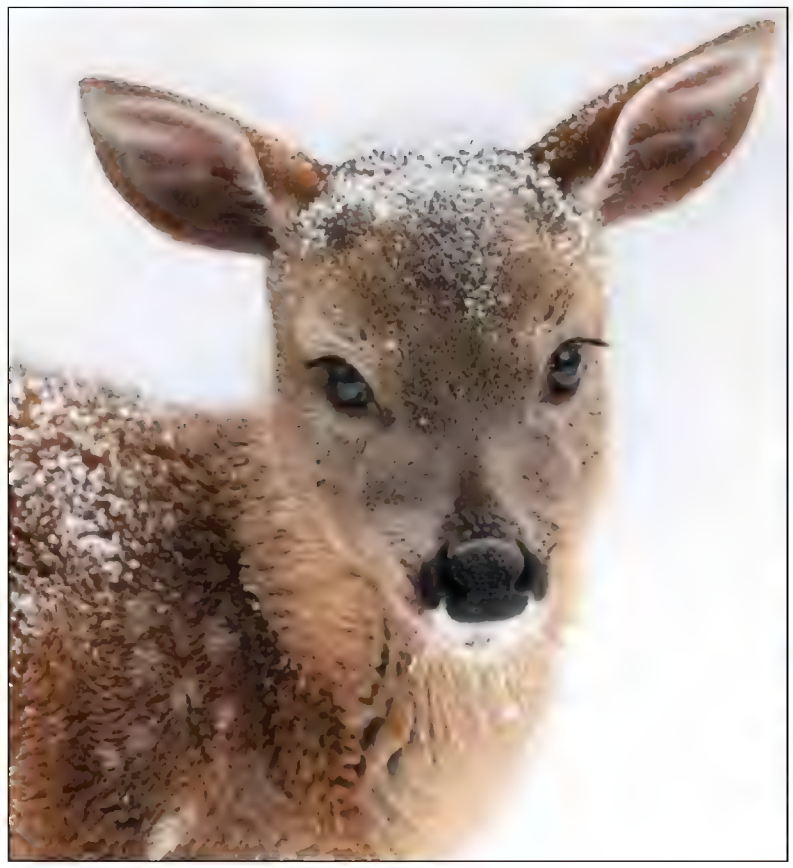
Supply Ontario seeks highly qualified vendors to provide production services to Ontario Government ministries and agencies. Only Preferred Vendors will be invited to compete for projects as they become available, including broadcast TV and radio, video, live event video streaming, animation, audio, photography, etc.

To apply, go to www.ontario.ca/tenders, click Current Opportunities, select Project Info filter, enter tender_21208, click Search

Supply Ontario

Pine Marten peeking by Tammy Nash

Barred owl by Destiny Lapierre



Sassy deer by Tammy Nash

Turkey visits by Tammy Nash

Legion Events

Branch 441 Kinmount

Monday: Bid Euchre 1 p.m.
Tuesday: Closed
Wednesday: Mixed Darts, 7:30 p.m.
Thursday: Closed
Friday: Bingo- Doors open at 5 p.m., play at 6:45 p.m. Supper specials every Friday starting at 5 p.m. May purchase special and eat in club room downstairs. Clubroom opens at 4 p.m.
Saturday: Clubroom opens at 3 p.m. Meat draw 5:30 p.m.
Special events:
3rd Thursday of the month 7 p.m. executive meeting and 7:30 p.m. general meeting (members only)
3rd Sunday of the month Ladies Auxiliary Meeting (members only)
Hall rentals available at reasonable prices. Call 705-488-3462 or 705-928-7105. We welcome everyone to our events and we look forward to seeing you!

Branch 129 Haliburton

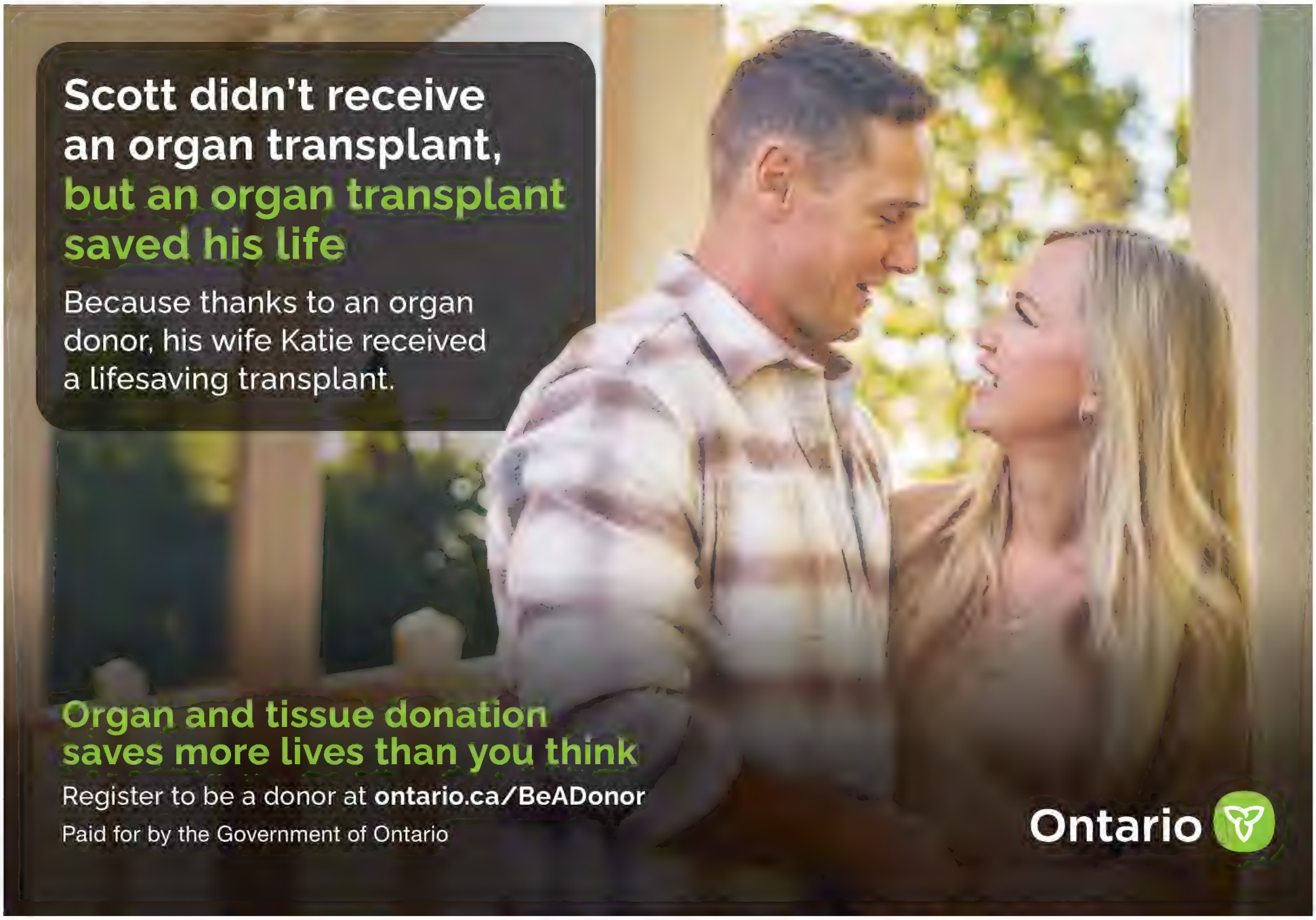
Mondays: Bridge 1 p.m. Schofield Rm. Youth darts 6:30 to 8 p.m. Clubroom 10 to 18 years of age. All are welcome, no experience necessary
Tuesdays: League darts 7 p.m.
Wednesdays: Bid Euchre 1 p.m. start – Main Hall. Bingo doors open at 6 p.m. Bingo 7 p.m. FirstWed of each month with jackpot. Follow Facebook.com/Branch129 Bingo for the most up-to-date information
Thursdays: General Meeting third Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m. All members urged to attend.
Ladies Auxiliary last Thursday of the month at 1 p.m.
Fridays: Five meat draw, five prizes each draw, first draw 4:30 p.m., last draw 6:30 p.m. Tickets $2 per draw. Paul Sisson, MC. Friday fun darts from 4:30 p.m. and onwards. 50/50 Draw 5:40 p.m.
Whether you're planning a function for 10 or 200, call Cheryl Waller at 905-447-7741, email haliburtonlegionrentals@gmail.com or visit haliburtonlegion.com. Everyone is welcome! Club room hours: Mon. 3 to 6 p.m., Tues. 3 to 9 p.m., Wed/Thurs. 3 to 6 p.m. Fri. 3 to 7 p.m.

Branch 636 Minden

Lunch - Monday to Friday
Monday: Rug Hookers every second week. Bid Euchre 1 to 3 p.m.
Tuesday: Food 5 p.m. Canoe FM Bingo 6 p.m.
Thursday: Cribbage 1 to 3 p.m., Darts 7 to 9 p.m. and Euchre 7 to 9 p.m.
Every other Friday: Karaoke 8 to 11 p.m.
Friday Fish & Chips, Wings. Lunch 11a.m. to 2 p.m. and Dinner 4 to 7 p.m.
Saturday All Day Breakfast 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with three Meat draws at 11 a.m.
Call ahead any day for take-out: 705-286-4541.
Schedules are subject to change without notice. Check our Facebook page Minden Legion Branch 636 for more info.

Branch 624 Wilberforce

Hours - Sunday: Special Events Only, Monday: 7 to 10 p.m., Tuesday: Closed, Wednesday: 2 to 10 p.m., Thursday: 2 to 6 p.m., Friday: 2 to 11 p.m., Saturday: 2 to 9 p.m.
Sunday: Jan. 11 L.A Breakfast $10. 9 to 11 a.m.
Mondays: Jan. 5, 12, 19, 26 Darts $5/player 7 p.m.
Tuesdays: Jan. 6 Veteran's and Seniors Exercise Club. First meeting Jan. 6 starts at 1 p.m.
Jan. 20, 27 Veteran's and Seniors Exercise Club. Starts at 1:30 p.m.
Wednesdays: Jan. 14, 21, 28 Darts $5/player 2pm
Jan. 7, 14, 21, 28 Quick Supper Menu changes weekly $10. 5 to 6:30 p.m.
Jan. 14, 21, 28 Open Cribbage 6:30 – No need to pre-register
Thursdays: Jan. 8, 22 HHHS Social Rec 10am
Fridays: Jan. 16, 30 Fish and Chips 1pc/$15, 2pc/$20. 5 to 8 p.m.
Jan. 9, 23 Wings and Jam Session $15/lb. 5 to 8 p.m.
Jan. 9, 23 Community Care 55+ Lunch $17. noon
Saturday:
Jan. 10, 17, 24, 31 Meat Draw 3 p.m.
Jan. 24 Pat and Phyllis Gallen Lake Trout Ice Fishing Derby. Weigh in 3 p.m.
Jan. 24 Karaoke 8 p.m.
Jan. 31 Nacho Average Trivia 7 p.m. $5/Player
Call the Legion for more info 705-448-222


Scott didn't receive an organ transplant, but an organ transplant saved his life
Because thanks to an organ donor, his wife Katie received a lifesaving transplant.
Organ and tissue donation saves more lives than you think
Register to be a donor at ontario.ca/BeADonor
Paid for by the Government of Ontario
Ontario

Hockley
THE ART OF THE CRAFT
Hockley Dark
Hockley
Hockley
HOCKLEYBEER.CA

classifieds@haliburtonpress.com
Deadline Thursday at Noon

County Classifieds

Classified Word Ad Special
25 Words
Your ad will run in
The Echo, The Times & County Life
Only $15 +HST

FOR SALE

Papillion puppies 8 weeks. 1 year old male, 2 year old male, 4 year old female. Playful small breed very hardy. Call James **613-332-1585** No ID must leave number on answering machine, will return call.

Winter Edge II Snowtires. 235/55 R18 100H on new steel rims. Paid over $1,900 last year. $900 Call **705-344-2355**

2013 GMC Sierra SLT. 4WD. 4DR. Loaded. 180K (KM). Full Towing Package. Soft Tonneau Incl. Cap optional for sale. Winter Tires. Asking $15,000. Also Louvered BackRack Like New. All Hardware. $250. Contact **905-718-7249**

FIREWOOD FOR SALE

CUT SPLIT & DELIVERED seasoned firewood 90% maple/all hardwood. Very clean wood. Dry also available. CALL AND INQUIRE: **705-930-7198**

WANTED

Wanted: scrap cars and trucks. Cash paid. Please call **705-286-3758** or **cell 249-332-1212**

FOR RENT

Large one-bedroom apartment available for rent January 1st. Single, mature, non-smoking tenants preferred. Fully furnished. Includes water access, private entrance, and 400 sq foot screened porch. 10 minute drive from Haliburton. $1700 per month. Includes hydro, heat, wifi, and parking. Please call 705-457-0861. Pictures available upon request.

Spacious one bedroom, one bath lower apartment located in the heart of Minden. The apartment provides a perfect blend of town and country living. Features include front door access, open concept living, in-unit laundry and outdoor living spaces, internet and preferential parking spots. $1,875 All inclusive plus shared hydro. Please Contact: **647-394-4899.** Photos available upon request.

COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR RENT

Meeting Space for Rent: Blue Sky Studio at Haliburton Chiropractic. Bright open space downtown with private entrance and washroom. Available for rent by the hour, half or full day. Contact: **705-457-3500** info@haliburtonchiropractic.com

SERVICES

Snow Blowing Walks and Drives,
Cottage Repairs + Renos
Call Mike Thomson **705-457-6365**

Roof snow removal, walkways and decks. Call Marcel 705-306-4993

SAME DAY SCREEN REPAIR
Custom Screen Manufacturing, All Styles, Shapes & Types. Call or visit the **CARRIAGE HOUSE at** ***705-286-2994.***
www.haliburtonroom.com
Product of Canada

Professional Home and Cottage
Interior/Exterior Renovation and New Construction. Call Patrick
705-854-3989

Batteries & Generators
Batteries, all types; Truck, Tractor, Snowmobile, Motorcycle. Generators; Standby & Regular. PLUS Tractor Chains. 1-800-954-9998 or 705-741-6097, KawarthaBattery@gmail.com

STORAGE

Indoor heated boat storage in Haliburton: $90 per foot for the season. Hydro provided. Call Brett at 647-405-0143

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

COUNTY LIFE IS LOOKING FOR RURAL ROUTE DRIVERS

County Life is looking for Rural Route drivers.
For details call **(705) 457-1037**
or **jenniferm@haliburtonpress.com**

County Life

FLYER INSERTER REQUIRED

We are currently looking for a person to help insert flyers each Wednesday into County Life.
For details call Jennifer at
(705) 457-1037
or email
jenniferm@haliburtonpress.com

Community Events

Send your event listing to classifieds@haliburtonpress.com

Resources for Adults with Intellectual and Physical Challenges: Hali Cares with Pat
When: Monday, Jan. 12, from 7 to 9 p.m.
Where: Schofield Room, Haliburton Legion, 719 Mountain St, Haliburton
A discussion with Pat Kinch, who presents a bi-weekly program on Haliburton's Moose FM radio on the topic of support for adults with Intellectual and physical challenges. Pat will have three guests, each providing insights on various supports. This is the first of the 2026 series on "Making Our Communities Better Places" and will begin with music by local musician Gord Kidd. The evening is open to all, with no admission charge and light refreshments provided. These events are hosted by the Baha'i community of Haliburton.

Knitting Circle
When: Tuesday, Jan. 13 from 1 to 3 p.m.
Where: Wilberforce Library
Drop in for a cozy afternoon of stitching, chatting, and community. All ages and skill levels are welcome (knitters and crocheters alike).

Documentary Screening of Sovereign Soil
When: Thursday, Jan. 15 at 1 p.m.
Where: Minden Hills Library
Join us to see an exploration of northern life, food sovereignty, and the deep relationship between people and the land. No registration required. The film is provided courtesy of the National Film Board in collaboration with Minden Hills Cultural Centre.

SALC Needle Felting Winter Landscapes
When: Thursday, Jan. 15 from 2 to 3 p.m.
Where: Dysart Library in Haliburton Village
In this free, hands-on workshop, you'll learn how to needle-felt a winter landscape—snowy hills, evergreen trees, and starry skies. All materials provided. Offered in partnership with the Government of Ontario, supporting social connection, creativity, and well-being among older adults in our community. Registration required. Call 705-457-2241 or email programs@haliburtonlibrary.ca to register.

Tech Help Walk-in-Clinic
When: Friday, January 16 from 1 to 4 pm.
Where: Minden Hills Library
Stuck on a tech problem? First come, first served. Each person gets a 30-minute session with library staff to tackle one specific technology challenge. One session per person per day.

How to Care for Houseplants Workshop
When: Saturday, Jan. 17 from 2 to 3 p.m.
Where: Dysart Library in Haliburton Village
A plant expert will guide you through the basics of indoor plant care—including watering, lighting, repotting, soil types, common pests, and easy troubleshooting tips. Registration required. Call 705-457-2241 or email programs@haliburtonlibrary.ca to register.

Recurring events

TOPS: Take Off Pounds Sensibly
When: Monday mornings 9:30 to 11 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion Branch 129, upper level
Admission: Yearly membership of $59
A non-profit/commercial network of weight-loss support groups, offers programs for healthy living and weight management.

Bridge for Seniors
When: Mondays at 1 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Schofield Rm
All welcome

Haliburton Legion Walking Group
When: Mondays at 9 to 10 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Remembrance Hall
A safe walking environment. Lead by an Occupational therapist.

Free Balanced Fitness, Active Social Senior Classes
When: Second, fourth Tuesday each month 10 to 11 a.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Remembrance Hall
All seniors are welcome. Group led by Registered Recreation Therapist

Bid Euchre
When: Wednesdays at 1 p.m.
Where: Haliburton Legion - Remembrance Hall
All welcome!

Duplicate Bridge - Please arrange for a partner.
When: Wednesdays at 12:45 at Park Lane Apartments.
Fridays at 12:45 at Haliburton Legion, Schofield Room.

Cards/Euchre/Cribbage
When: Thursdays at 2:30 p.m.
Where: St. George's Church, 617 Mountain Street

Local Service Directory

EMMERSON RENT-ALL

Husqvarna STIHL

63 Maple Ave., Haliburton **Phone: 705-457-1550**
Out of Town Customers Call: 1-888-339-3325
email: information@emmersonlumber.com • www.emmersonlumber.com

Cottage Country Building Supplies

15492 Hwy #35, Carnarvon
Phone: 705-489-2212 **Toll Free:1-844-308-4212**
www.cottagecountrybuildingsupplies.com

KEGEL HEATING & COOLING

Tim Kegel

- Geothermal Systems
- Furnaces
- Fireplaces
- Hot Water Tanks
- Air Conditioning
- HRV's
- Radiant Floor Heating
- Chimneys
- Ductwork
- Radiant Tube Heaters
- Gas Piping
- Boilers
- AND MORE

Bus: 705-341-9170
Email: info@kegelheatingandcooling.ca

- **Concrete Slabs**
- **Block & ICF Foundations**
- **Specializing in Foundation Sealing**

D&K MASONRY

Derek Rowden
705-754-5372

dandkmasonry@msn.com
www.dandkmasonry.com

QUALITY WORKMANSHIP | Fully Insured

Cottage Maintenance

HOT TUB SALES & MAINTENANCE

Weekly/Bi-weekly Cottage Surveillance
Snow Removal of Decks/Walkways/ Roofs
UV Systems & Filters, Firewood

Relax ..... Let me do the work! *Fully Insured*

Call or text Norm Barry
705 457 0153
info@normbarry.com
www.normbarry.ca

CHAPMAN INSTALLATIONS

HALIBURTON, ON
TILE | NATURAL & VENEER STONE
LAMINATE | LVP | HARDWOOD

Jamie Chapman
Flooring Contractor
705-205-5078
chapmaninstallations0@gmail.com

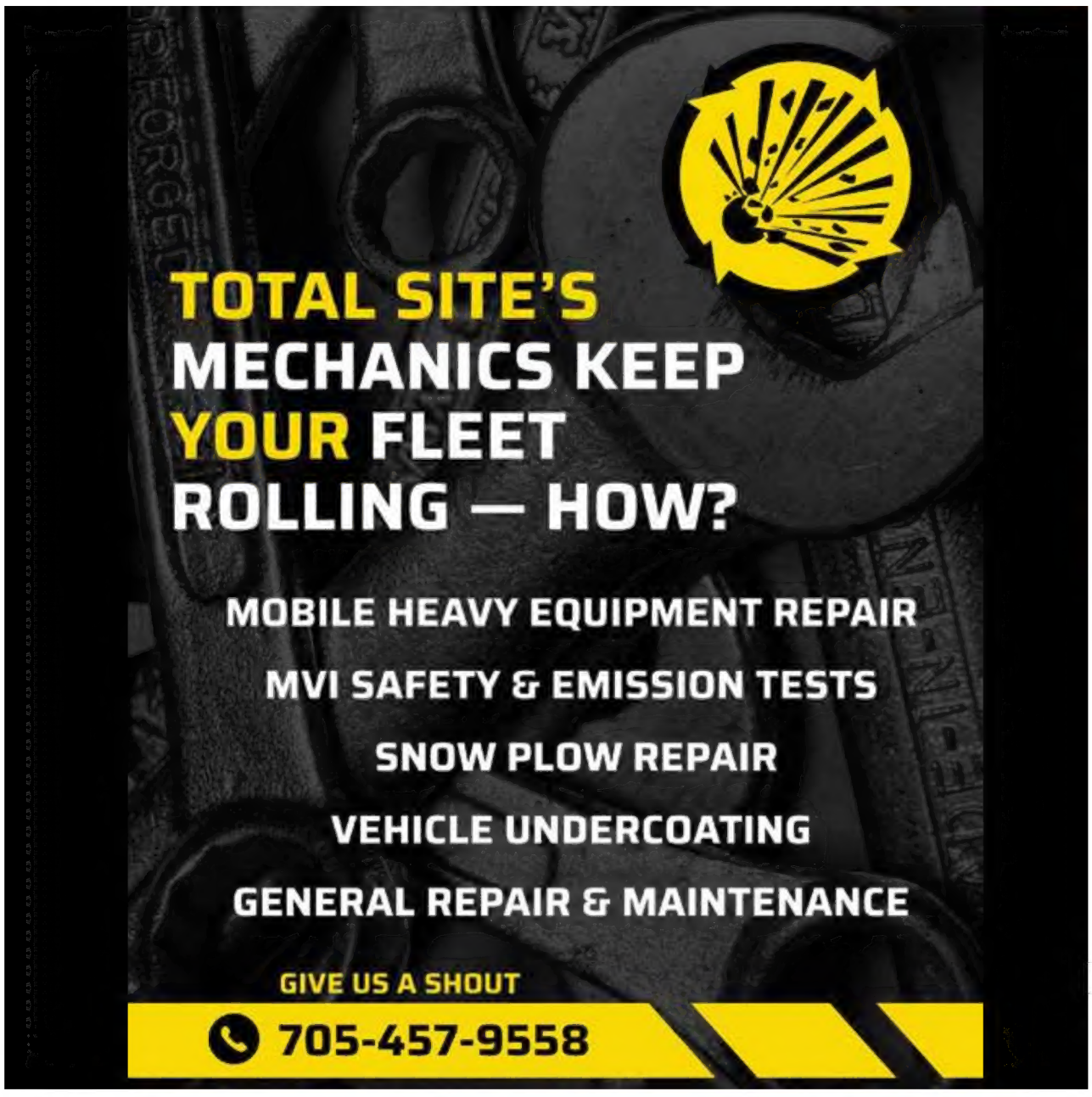
SEPTIC & HOLDING TANK PUMPING & INSTALLATIONS
SHEPHERD ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
PORTABLE TOILETS, EXCAVATING
Year Round Service

YOUR SEWAGE SYSTEM EXPERTS
705.454.3744 or 705.887.1503
www.shepherdenvironmental.ca
YEAR ROUND PUMPING SERVICE

INNOVATE CONTRACTING

Home & Cottage Restoration • Renovation
Custom Carpentry • Project Management
Complete Interior & Exterior

Patrick McGregor
705-854-3989
pmmcgr@outlook.com


TOTAL SITE'S MECHANICS KEEP YOUR FLEET ROLLING — HOW?
MOBILE HEAVY EQUIPMENT REPAIR
MVI SAFETY & EMISSION TESTS
SNOW PLOW REPAIR
VEHICLE UNDERCOATING
GENERAL REPAIR & MAINTENANCE
GIVE US A SHOUT
705-457-9558

SERVING COTTAGE COUNTRY SINCE 1987

- Water Treatment Systems
- Winter Water Systems
- Well Systems
- Waste Water Systems
- Viqua UV Systems
- Heat Cables
- Hot Water Tanks
- Hot Tub Water Care Service
- Beachcomber Hot Tubs
- Marquis Spas

- Operations of Small Drinking Water Systems
- Limited Sub Systems
- Well Contractor
- Well Technician

LIC. UNDER M.O.E.

EST THE 1987
PUMP SHOP
WATER SPECIALISTS

5161 County Road 21, Haliburton, ON
ThePumpShop.ca | info@thepumpshop.ca
705.457.2638 | 888.312.PUMP

To place your business card in the directory call today!

Laura Smith
705-854-0294
laura@haliburtonpress.com

Jennifer McEathron
705-457-5747
jenniferm@haliburtonpress.com

Amanda Gonyea
705-457-1037
classsifieds@haliburtonpress.com

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The Times

Monday, January 3, 2000 Number 1921

Excellent Selection of Used Snowmobiles at PRENTICE POWER SPORTS LTD.
Hwy. 35 south of Minden
286-2750
"Canada's #1 Ski-Doo dealer"

$1 (93¢ plus G.S.T.)

Little Bob Lake
Vacant building lot on year round Township road. Over 1 acre, 165' lake frontage, well treed, private western exposure. $49,900.
Doug Johnson
Broker
Countrywide®
Haliburton Realty Ltd.
Bus. 286-2882 Res. 489-1234

Budget boost for HHHS

Santa stopped by the Haliburton Highlands Health Services just before Christmas and helped ease pressure on the organization's budget. Announcements from the Ministry of Health helped make it a brighter holiday season in three areas.

The provincial government has announced that $162,670 will be added to the health services board's $2,611,000 annual base budget. (HHHS also draws revenue of $736,000 from other sources for a total operating budget this year of $3,348,000.) The infusion of money was part of a province-wide announcement made December 23 which will see $196 million distributed to hospitals throughout the province.

While HHHS has been able to operate close to a balanced budget during this year, several members of the board have noted that HHHS has been underfunded. The Health Services Restructuring Commission report, issued last year, stated that the base budget for the hospitals should be $3,160,000, $549,000 more than the amount the province was providing. As well, a study undertaken by the province and the Ontario Hospital Association identified HHHS as one of the most underfunded hospital services in the province.

HHHS executive director, Foster Loucks, was pleased with the announcement noting there were programs being implemented by the board where the funds could be used. "This money will help us address the new nursing position we have created to help ease the problem of ensuring we have a nurse on-call," Loucks said. Recently the board agreed to create another nursing position. The nurse is scheduled to work an eight hour shift and be on call for transfers or to assist in other ways for the remaining 16 hours in that day. The process would ensure that at least one additional nurse is available when needed.

"Another pressure point," Loucks said, "is the new cardiac markers diagnosis which is being used at the two emergency departments." The test is easy to administer and, according to Loucks, is an ideal tool in a rural hospital setting, but it is expensive. It is estimated that implementing it will cost $40,000. The test reveals whether a patient has suffered a heart attack.

Loucks said the board is also strug-

(more on page 3)

Y2-AOK

Whether it was a result of careful preparations or more hype than reality, the new year was welcomed throughout the area with no noticeable disruptions. Electrical services were uninterrupted, the phone system continued to operate, the fears of a system melt-down evaporated with the midnight celebrations.

The Ontario Provincial Police in Haliburton and Victoria Counties report nothing unusual during the transition to the new millennium. Other than dealing with a few over-enthusiastic revellers, the police had no Y2K issues to deal with. Detachments in both areas had extra officers on duty.

Likewise, municipalities reported nothing out of the ordinary. Township staff, including firemen, were on stand-by Friday evening and Saturday morning, but, except for a house fire in Minden, there was little for them to do.

New year's eve blaze levels Scotch Line home

A new year's eve fire has destroyed the retirement home of Brian and Lucy Gray. The house is located on Scotch Line Road, just west of Highway 35, north of Minden.

Firemen were called to the house at 7:30 p.m. after an alarm was turned in by a neighbour from across the street. They arrived on the scene to find the structure engulfed in flames. To augment supplies in their tanks, the firemen pumped water from a pond in front of next door neighbour Brian Hamilton's home, to fight the blaze.

According to Minden Fire Chief, the fire appeared to have started in the attached garage area and swept into the house. The firefighters were called back to the scene later in the night to extinguish a flare-up within the charred remains of the structure.

There was no one home at the time of the fire. According to the chief, the couple had left several hours earlier to attend a New Year's Eve celebration in Toronto. Lucy Gray is Nancy Garbutt's sister. According to her husband, Jim Garbutt, while the couple lived in the city, they had plans to retire to the home later this year. He said the wood stove in the structure was not in use.

"It appears to have been just one of those things that happens," Garbutt said. "Fortunately nobody was hurt."

Members of the Minden Fire department were scheduled to be on call later that evening in anticipation of potential Y2K problems. Chief Bill Hogg said no one was injured fighting the blaze. No estimate of the damage was available.

The chief planned to return to the house Saturday morning in an attempt to determine the cause of the fire.

BEECH LAKE BLAZE: Firefighter Tony Aymong signals for water as Captain Nigel Atkinson advances on a Beech Lake fire that consumed four generations of memories on December 27. *(Photo and article by Carol Moffatt)*

Fire destroys Stanhope cottage

Fire swept through a Beech Lake cottage last week, destroying four generations of memories and leaving a young family in shock.

David Bergshoeff, 35, had gone ahead to the family's Redner Lane cottage on Boxing Day to prepare for his wife and two daughters, aged five and two. The lifelong cottager went through his usual routine of "opening up" and went to bed, in anticipation of his family's arrival the next morning.

"I got up, had a coffee and went to the lake to clear the skating rink. I didn't even have breakfast," he said.

While working on the rink Bergshoeff heard what he described as "a loud cracking noise" which made him look toward the cottage.

"I looked up and there was all this smoke and flames at the back porch," he said. Bergshoeff said he tried to enter the cottage through sliding doors at the other end of the building but was driven back by flames rolling across the living room ceiling.

"I ran to the neighbours to call the fire department but all I could think of was 911. Thank god they have the fire department number right above the phone," he said.

Stanhope firefighters stopped the blaze from consuming the entire 50-year-old wood frame structure, but smoke damage was severe and the cottage was called "a write-off".

The cottage, built by Bergshoeff's grandparents in the 1940s, was filled with mementos, photos, and family antiques, most of which have been ruined.

"At least my family's safe. Thank god they weren't here," said Bergshoeff, who said he has mentally traced his steps over and over in an attempt to determine the cause of the fire.

Stanhope Fire Chief John Hogg determined exactly where the fire began, but despite a thorough investigation, was unable to determine the cause of the blaze.

Bergshoeff had working smoke detectors in the cottage; he was too far from the building to hear them.

CURRY CHEVROLET BUICK GMC
Proudly Serving & Supporting Our Local Communities Since 1923
CURRY Chevrolet 1923
GMC

FRESH POSSIBILITIES

From cozy winter escapes to year-round havens and breathtaking waterfront homes - the winter season offers new opportunities for everyone.

18830 Highway 35 $499,900

Home or cottage with guest cabin! Discover this highly versatile property, perfectly situated across from Kushog Lake in the Algonquin Highlands. Recent upgrades include a metal roof, plumbing, a 200-amp electrical service, and drilled well with UV filtration. New stairs lead to a private dock across the road, providing convenient access to the lake for swimming, fishing, and boating. This is a great opportunity to own a slice of cottage country.

4 | 1.5 ACRES

2 | MLS# X12604142

Gelert Road
$315,000
1 | 2
MLS X12267121

Gelert Road
$550,000
2 | 2
MLS X12583360

SCAN TO SEE THE LISTINGS | contact@baumgartnerrealty.ca (705) 457-3461 | 7 DYSART AVE. HALIBURTON P.O. BOX 1086 ON K0M1S0 | RE/MAX PROFESSIONALS NORTH BAUMGARTNER REALTY Brokerage - independently owned and operated